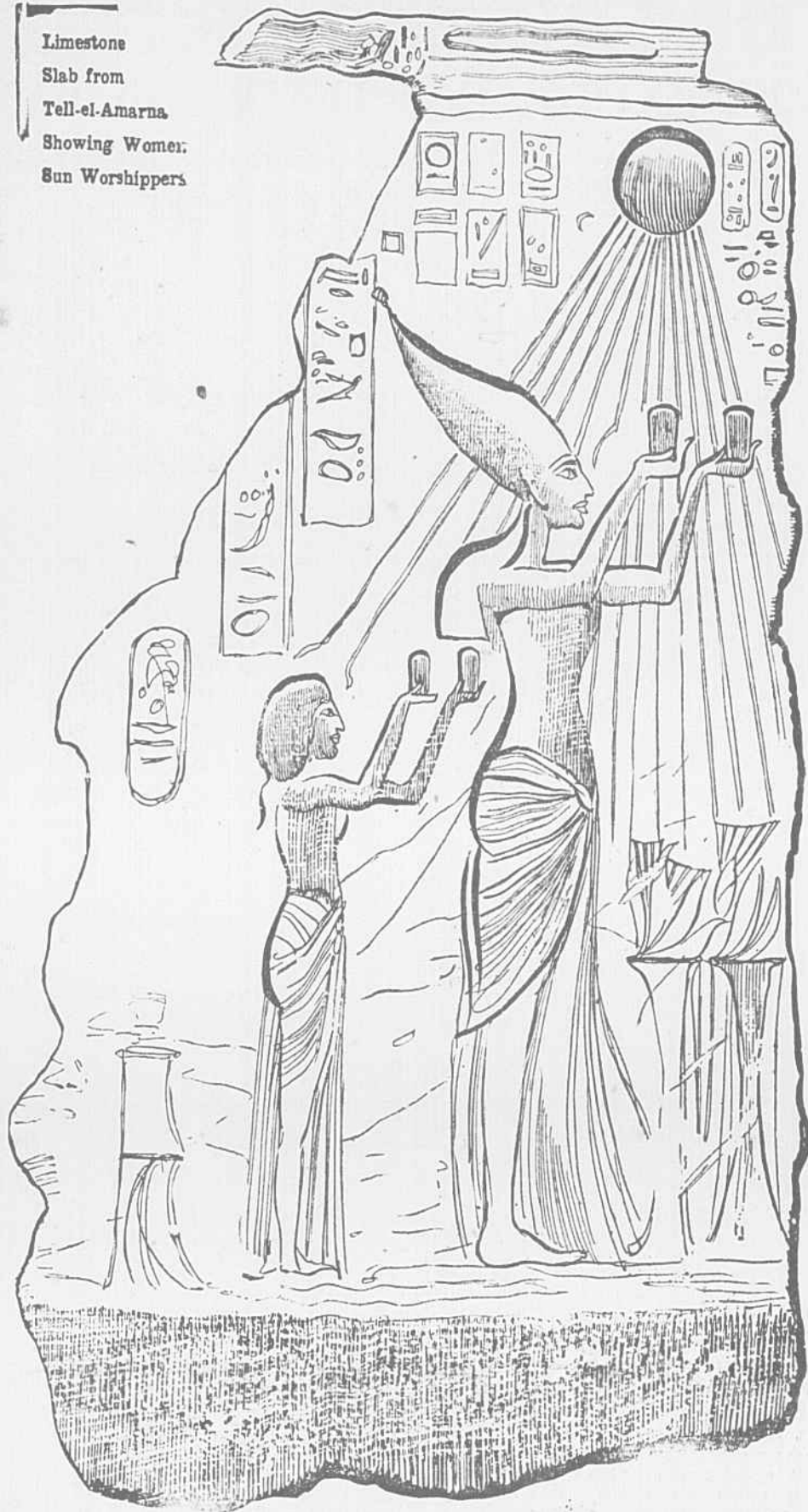
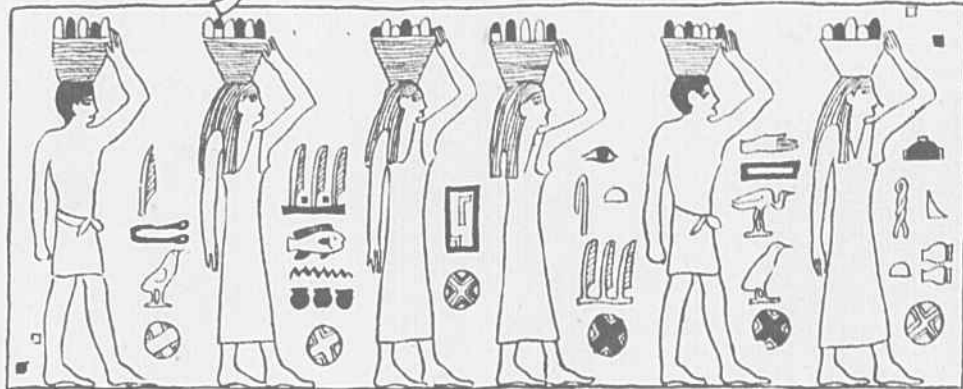


Limestone
Slab from
Tell-el-Amarna
Showing Women
Sun Worshippers



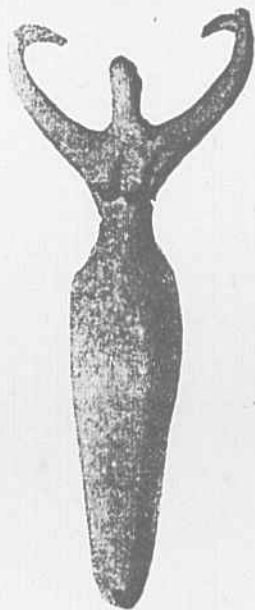
Unearthing Art's Earliest Images of Women



Figures Carved in Low Relief on Walls of Ramesseum at Medinet.

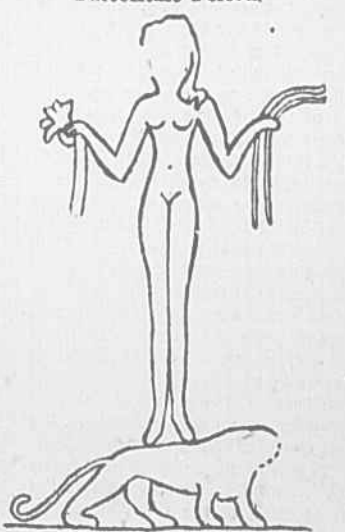


Carved Head Ascribed to the Paleolithic Period.



Figurine from a Grave at Gabelein.

Professor H. G. Spearing Shows
How Women Were Interpreted
in "The Childhood of Art"
and How Later Designs Show
Greatly Changed Notions of
What Is Beautiful---
Some of the Earliest Pictures
Yet Discovered.



Ancient Egyptian Design from a Tomb.

RECENT researches, and researches analyzed and tabulated since the war began, cast an interesting light on what Prof. H. G. Spearing of Queen's College, Oxford, calls "the childhood of art." Among the revelations from ancient tablets, tomb decorations and ornaments dug out of the earth, no examples are more fascinating than those which show earlier man's visualization of woman.

The researches have brought to light objects and fragments of objects, or have bared rocks upon which the sun has not shone for many thousands of years—how many thousands the archeologists can only guess. Some, like the crude head of a woman shown in the right-hand upper corner of this page, are credited to the paleolithic age, which is marked as so long before period of history that no safe estimate can be made of their true antiquity. Others dating from a much later time have only recently been uncovered. Thus, tens of thousands of years may separate examples found at the one time.

Prof. Spearing says that men drew pictures or modelled the human form at a time much more remote than most students used to believe. He has been astounded by the character of the images belonging to times when men are supposed to have lived in a primitively savage state.

The images here reproduced show how much early men differed in their representation of women, and they show also how much these men tended to follow a formula, just as they do today. The eye in profile, for example, is likely to be drawn the same as the eye in front view. When we come to the time of the later and historic Greek art the images reach a perfection which critics like to say has never been surpassed.

Almost all of the drawings of primitive men showed both animals and human beings in profile. When the figure of a man or woman was drawn in front view the head was turned to show profile. Drawing a profile, as every artist has discovered, is a much simpler matter than drawing the full face. In the case of figures modelled "in the round" the sculptor was forced to show both eyes and to undertake something much nearer to realism as we understand it. Crude as these might be, they inevitably showed the characteristics of the races represented by the sculptors.



Fragment of Design on Wall of Queen's Chamber in Palace of Knossos.



Remains of Colored Stucco Relief, Early Greece.



Clay Figure Found Near Klicevac, Near Belgrade.



From an Assyrian Ceremonial Design.

Sometimes this sculpturing was in stone, sometimes in ivory, sometimes in baked clay. Again, the instinct to add color to hair, cheeks and eyes is frequently shown.

One remark of Prof. Spearing is especially significant at this time. The professor declares that the earliest artists almost never represented war, though the world was never without war, and though some of its most savage wars must have been in progress at the time the artists were doing the work now uncovered to the world. There was plenty of war in the later work of the Greeks. Some of the most impressive art in the friezes of Athens and of Rome shows phases of battle. But the earliest draughtsmen turned to animals, religious rites, and the homely activities of men and women in every day life. The full significance of some of the figures and gestures may always remain a mystery.

Rock Carving from Chaldea.

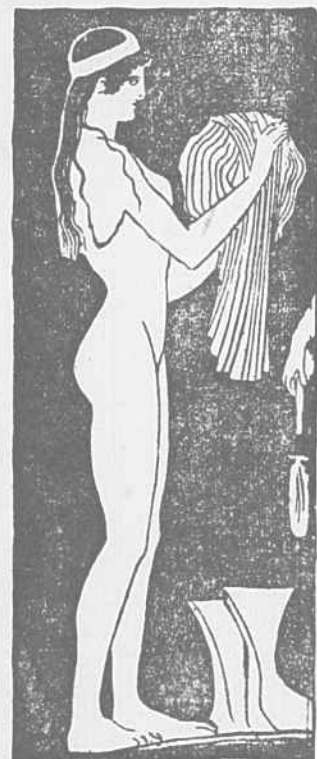
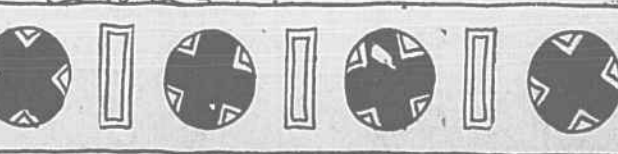
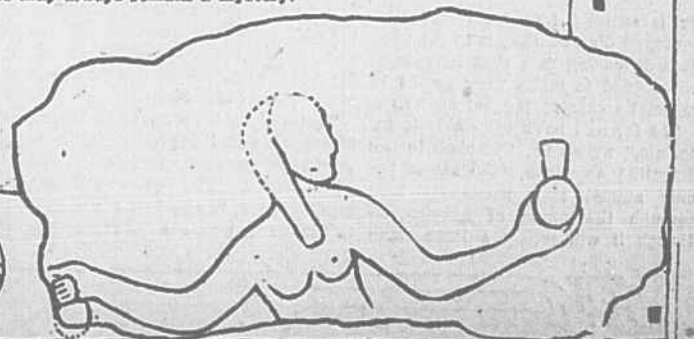
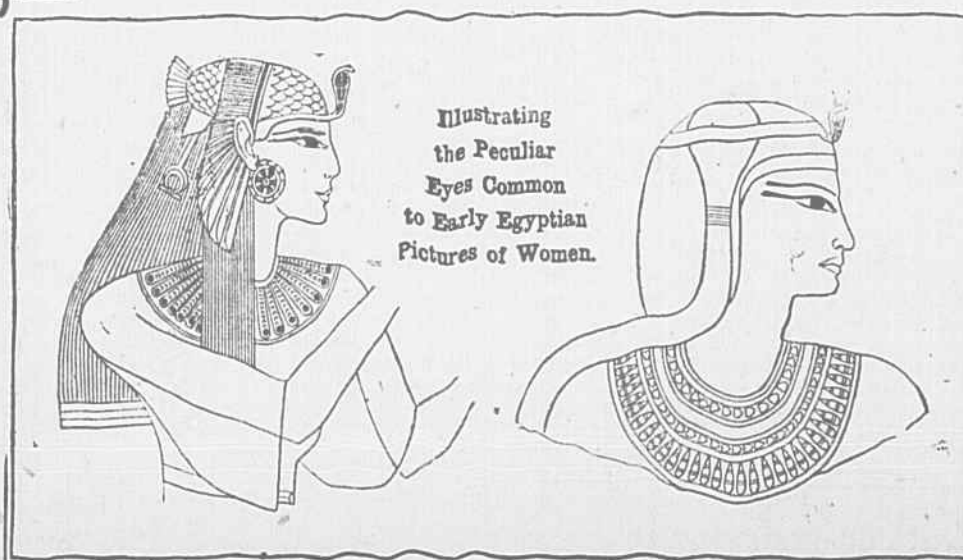


Figure from a Greek Vase.



Strange Carving from an Ivory Amulet.



Illustrating the Peculiar Eyes Common to Early Egyptian Pictures of Women.